

# Entering the Kingdom of the Sick

## Julie K. Silver, MD

Associate Professor, Department of PM&R, Harvard Medical School

Associate Chair and Director of Cancer Rehabilitation

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Harvard Medical School & Spaulding Rehabilitation Network



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**@JulieSilverMD**

“Illness is the night-side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick.

Although we all prefer to use only the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.”

*Susan Sontag*

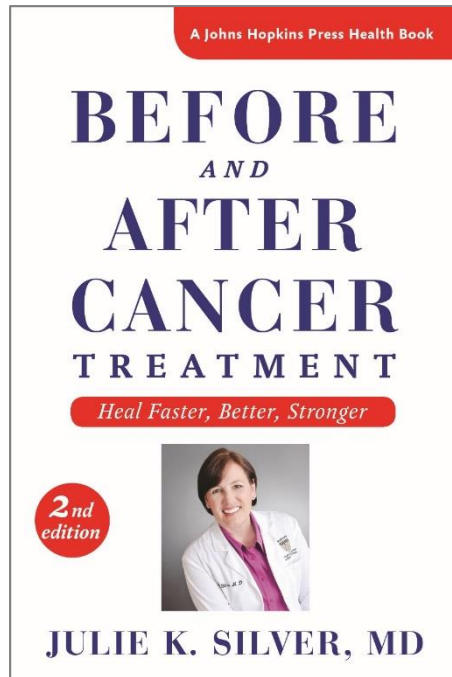


One of my patients got married in 2003.

She was almost declared dead one year later.







“I felt as though I had aged considerably. My 3-year-old daughter would tell me, ‘Mama, you don't look pretty’--the only way she knew to tell me that I didn't look healthy. She was right. I didn't look pretty, and I was far from being healthy. My cancer was presumably gone, but I was still a very sick woman...I knew that no one was going to help me to physically heal after cancer treatment.”



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